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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/731,304 | 12/09/2003 | D. Kirk Grotjohn | RSW920030275US1 | 3641 |

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EXAMINER

WATT, CHRIS A

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2174

| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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07/17/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/731,304 | | GROTJOHN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | | Art Unit | |
| | Chris Watt | | 2174 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 2/1/2007.
2. Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9 and 17 are the independent claims. In the instant Amendment, claims 17-24 were amended. No claims were added or cancelled. This action is made Non-Final.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by Nullsoft Winamp Version 2.22 ("Winamp", see e.g. FIG. 1 - Winamp Version 2.22 Release Date).

Regarding independent claim 1, Winamp teaches a method for managing movement of objects within a workspace of a graphical user interface (GUI) (i.e. FIG. 2 - Situated objects in non-overlapping workspace), comprising the steps of configuring said GUI into a non-overlapping workspace, situating at least two of said objects in said non-overlapping workspace (i.e. FIG. 2 - Situated objects in non-overlapping workspace, FIG. 3 - Configuring GUI in non-overlapping workspace), pushing a second of said objects in said non-overlapping workspace when a first of said objects comes in contact with said second of said objects while being moved (i.e. FIG. 4 - Objects in contact, FIG. 5 - Objects moved/displaced together with abutting edges while coupled).

Regarding dependent claim 2, Winamp teaches the method of claim 1, wherein said movement of said first object such that it comes in contact with said second object

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displaces said second object without said first object overlapping said second object (i.e. FIG. 5 - Objects moved/displaced together with abutting edges while coupled).

Regarding dependent claim 3, Winamp teaches the method of claim 2, wherein said displacement of said second object by said first object causes an edge of said first object to abut an edge of said second object (i.e. FIG. 5 - Objects moved/displaced together with abutting edges while coupled).

Regarding dependent claim 4, Winamp teaches the method of claim 3, wherein upon said first object coming into contact with said second object, said abutting sides of said first and second objects become coupled to each other, forming an object unit (i.e. FIG. 5 - Objects moved/displaced together with abutting edges while coupled, FIG. 6 - Third object coupled and incorporated into object unit).

Regarding dependent claim 5, Winamp teaches the method of claim 4, wherein movement of said object unit such that it comes into contact with a third object causes said third object to become coupled to said object unit, thereby incorporating said third object into said object unit (i.e. FIG. 6 - Third object coupled and incorporated into object unit).

Regarding dependent claim 6, Winamp teaches the method of claim 5, wherein movement of said object unit such that it comes into contact with any other objects within said non-overlapping workspace causes each such object to become coupled to said object unit, thereby incorporating any such objects into said object unit (i.e. FIG. 7 - Other objects coupled and incorporated into object unit).

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Regarding dependent claim 7, Winamp teaches the method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of: configuring said object unit for management by providing controllable coupling and decoupling capability with respect to said objects forming and object unit (i.e. FIG. 8 - Controllable coupling and decoupling and non-overlapping workspace).

Regarding dependent claim 8, Winamp teaches the method of claim 1, wherein said GUI is switchable between said non-overlapping workspace configuration and an overlapping workspace configuration (i.e. FIG. 8 - Controllable coupling and decoupling and non-overlapping workspace, FIG. 9 - Configuring overlapping workspace configuration).

Regarding independent claim 9, Winamp teaches a system for managing movement of objects within a workspace of a graphical user interface (GUI) (i.e. FIG. 2 - Situated objects in non-overlapping workspace), comprising: means for configuring said GUI into a non-overlapping workspace (i.e. FIG. 2 - Situated objects in non-overlapping workspace, FIG. 3 - Configuring GUI in non-overlapping workspace), means for situating at least two of said objects in said non-overlapping workspace, and means for pushing a second of said objects in said non-overlapping workspace when a first of said objects comes in contact with said second of said objects while being moved (i.e. FIG. 4 - Objects in contact, FIG. 5 - Objects moved/displaced together with abutting edges while coupled).

Claim 10 is similar in scope to claim 2, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

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Claim 11 is similar in scope to claim 3, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 12 is similar in scope to claim 4, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 13 is similar in scope to claim 5, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 14 is similar in scope to claim 6, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 15 is similar in scope to claim 7, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 16 is similar in scope to claim 8, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Regarding independent claim 17, Winamp teaches computer readable code embodied on a computer readable medium for managing movement of objects within a workspace of a graphical user interface (GUI) (i.e. FIG. 2 - Situated objects in non-overlapping workspace), comprising: first subprocesses for configuring said GUI into a non-overlapping workspace (i.e. FIG. 2 - Situated objects in non-overlapping workspace, FIG. 3 - Configuring GUI in non-overlapping workspace), second subprocesses for situating at least two of said objects in said non-overlapping workspace, and third subprocesses for pushing a second of said objects in said non-overlapping workspace when a first of said objects comes in contact with said second of

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said objects while being moved (i.e. FIG. 4 - Objects in contact, FIG. 5 - Objects moved/displaced together with abutting edges while coupled).

Claim 18 is similar in scope to claim 2, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 19 is similar in scope to claim 3, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 20 is similar in scope to claim 4, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 21 is similar in scope to claim 5, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 22 is similar in scope to claim 6, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 23 is similar in scope to claim 7, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 24 is similar in scope to claim 8, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chris Watt whose telephone number is (571) 270-1046. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30-4:00 Eastern.

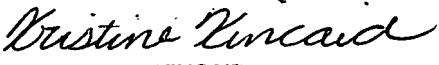
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chris A. Watt/

July 6, 2007

CAW


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